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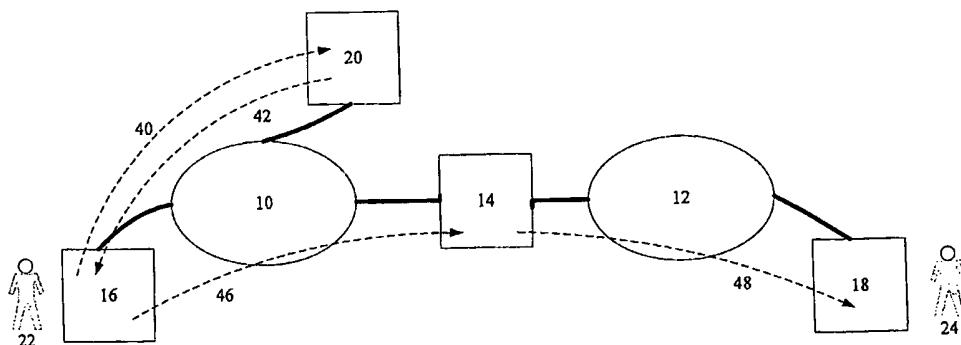
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(54) Title: METHOD OF PROVIDING KEY CONTAINERS



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(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to providing key containers, such as an encryption or a signing key container to aid the secure transmission of messages sent from a sender to a recipient. A key container directory (20) receives a request for the key container from a requestor (14, 22 or 24). The key container provider (20) provides a key container to the requestor (14, 22 or 24) that contains a cryptographic key of a gateway (14) that the message will transit and an address of the sender (22 or 24) or the recipient (22 or 24). In this way, the message may be sent or received without the sender's or receiver's specific knowledge that the gateway will or has acted as a security proxy of the other party. The sender of the message need not have prior knowledge of the address of the recipient's message gateway. The invention also concerns a key container directory, a key container and methods of receiving a key container.